

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03266 282101Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W
-----074579 282103Z /75
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7897
ALL CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 03266

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: FORMER LIBERAL DEFENSE MINISTER RICHARDSON
DEFECTS AND BECOMES INDEPENDENT MP

1. JAMES RICHARDSON, WHO RESIGNED AS DEFENSE MINISTER IN OCTOBER 1976 IN DISAGREEMENT WITH TRUDEAU'S POLICY ON BILINGUALISM, ROSE IN PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY (JUNE 27) AND ANNOUNCED: "I FIND MYSELF IN SUCH FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS (ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM) THAT I CAN NO LONGER SIT ON THIS SIDE OF THE HOUSE." RICHARDSON THEN WALKED ACROSS THE AISLE AND TOOK A SEAT WITH FOUR OTHER INDEPENDENT MEMBERS. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, HE REITERATED THAT HE REMAINS FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSED TO THE CONCEPT OF TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN CANADA. ENGLISH, IN HIS VIEW, SHOULD BECOME CANADA'S ONE "COMMON, WORKING, UNITING LANGUAGE" WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN AN "INCREASINGLY BILINGUAL QUEBEC."

2. SINCE HE RESIGNED AS DEFENSE MINISTER, RICHARDSON HAS BEEN RELATIVELY INACTIVE AS AN MP, AND HE WAS FREQUENTLY ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE. THOUGH HIS ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY WAS MOMENTARILY DRAMATIC, HE HAD LONG AGO BEEN WRITTEN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03266 282101Z

OFF BY THE LIBERALS, AND IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE PARTY WOULD NOT SUPPORT HIS RE-NOMINATION IN HIS WINNIPEG RIDING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE WILL PROBABLY RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS. HIS DEFECTION, HOWEVER, IS A REMINDER THAT THERE IS STILL A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ANGLOPHONE CANADIANS WHO OPPOSE PROVIDING LINGUISTIC GUARANTEES FOR THE FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY.

ENDERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780612/aaaaajwe.tel
Line Count: 63
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 51384f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA, (RICHARDSON, JAMES)
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